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IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

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DATE: 20 JUNE 1974

SUBJECT:

ITEM NO:

LAOS--NON-COMMUNISTS SCORE ONE OVER PATHET LAO

REF

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NON-COMMUNIST CABINET MINISTERS HAVE REBUFFED THE LATEST PATHET LAO EFFORTS TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THE COALITION GOV區 MENT FOR HANOI'S ANTI-US MANEUVERS. AT YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEET ING, LAO COMMUNIST DEPUTY PREMIER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT PRESENTED A LETTER FROM NORTH VIETNAM PROTESTING US VIOLATIONS OF THE LASS AND VIETNAM PEACE ACCORDS AND DEMANDING AMERICAN MILITARY WITH-DRAWAL FROM THAILAND. PHOUMI STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE CABINET ENDORSE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITION.

AFTER LENGTHY AND ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE, THE NON-COMMUNISTS--LED BY DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK AND FINANCE MINISTER NGON SANANIKONE--GAINED CABINET APPROVAL OF AN EVEN-HANDED REPLY TO HANOI. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGWING RECEIPT OF THE LETTER, THE CABINET'S

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ABCHWAL RECORD AGENCY ARCHIVES,

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REPLY--WITHOUT CONTING SPECIFIC COUNTRIES--STATED THAT THE

COALITION WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY VIOLATIONS OF ITS TERRITORY OR

ALLOW ITS SOIL TO BE USED FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST A THIRD COUNTRY.

THIS RESPONSE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE USED IN THE FUTURE BY THE

NON-COMMUNISTS IN THE COALITION TO PROTEST THE CONTINUING PRESENCE

OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOS. E-2 IMPDET.H

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